

WEEKLY ECONOMIC REVIEW

NOVEMBER 10, 2005

Statistics Canada revised estimates of the provincial economic accounts showed Alberta had the strongest growth among the provinces in 2004. Alberta's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by a revised 4.3 per cent in 2004, up from Statistics Canada's preliminary estimate of 3.7 per cent and inline with Alberta Finance's forecast of 4.4 per cent in Budget 2005. A solid consumer sector, coupled with strength in investment, manufacturing and exports contributed to Alberta's broad-based growth in 2004.

Canada's trade surplus increased to \$7.0 billion in September, as growth in exports (+2.8 per cent) exceeded the growth in imports (+1.4 per cent). Compromised natural gas production resulting from the hurricanes sent natural gas prices soaring and contributed to three quarters of September's increase in exports. Exports of live animals to the United States continued in September at levels comparable to the months preceding the border closure.

The U.S. trade deficit widened to \$66.1 billion in September and is approximately \$530 billion so far in 2005, 18 per cent higher than the same time period in 2004.

Cdn Dollar (C\$/US\$)			
↔	Nov 10, 2005		84.2¢
	Nov 04, 2005		84.7¢
	2005-06 YTD		82.4¢
WTI Oil \$US/bbl			
↓	Nov 09, 2005		\$58.93
	Nov 03, 2005		\$61.78
	2005-06 YTD		\$58.90
Nymex Natural Gas C\$/mcf*			
December Contract			
↔	Nov 10, 2005		\$13.44
	Nov 04, 2005		\$13.26
*Estimate based on Nymex Futures Market Price			

The United States and China agreed on a three-year deal regarding import quotas for Chinese textile exports this week. The agreement would limit the growth of Chinese clothing exports by an average 12.5 per cent per year over the three-year period.

An increase in U.S. stocks of crude oil and weakened demand for petroleum products eased oil prices below US\$60 a barrel this week. Although natural gas storage levels improved for the 5th consecutive week, concerns of the potential difficulties of replenishing inventories during the winter months kept prices at relatively high levels.

Economic Indicators Released this Week	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month	Month/Previous Year's Month	Year-to-date ¹
Canadian International Trade (\$ millions)	September			
Exports	39,763	2.8%	11.3%	3.4%
Imports	32,746	1.4%	5.3%	6.5%
Trade Balance	7,017	10.1%	52.3%	-12.5%
Building Permits (\$ millions)	September			
Alberta	775	-8.4%	34.9%	40.8%
Canada	5,144	-5.3%	12.8%	10.7%
Housing Starts²	October			
Alberta	37,800	-18.9%	-3.3%	11.2%
Canada	206,700	-10.0%	-10.1%	-3.1%

Source: Statistics Canada and Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation

¹Year-to-date 2005 compared to the same time period in 2004. For example: January-September 2005 versus January-September 2004.

²Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates